



COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
ACADEMIC SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 2021

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

SUMMARY

Attendees: Alisha Kaminsky, Chris Blakey, David Andrus, Claudia Acosta, Garrett Rieck, Gary Collis, Gary Quire, Jason Burgdorfer, Julie Johnson, Lisa Hooper, Marilyn Jimenez, Miriam Golbert, Nicole Faudree, Rebecca Shepherd, Robert Wonser, Teresa Ciardi & Wendy Brill-Wynkoop

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to order: 11:05am
2. Public Comment:
 - a) Online Training/Online LIVE: There are a few section of non-credit that will be offered in high FLEX format. This is a format which Regina Blasberg has taught in Land Surveying for many years. In this format student are being taught in the classroom and remotely. There was a question if this type of training will apply to those who are teaching in high FLEX format? There is going to be internal training for non-credit faculty who have been teaching in this format for the last 10 years. High FLEX may be separate from Online LIVE. David has reached out to Ed Tech and CETL and the proposed policy for Online LIVE Training and Provisional Certification Standards will be place on the March 18th agenda as a discussion item. There is a need to communicate to department chairs that they can go ahead and staff their current summer and fall schedules based on provisional roll overs. Ed Tech Committee will meet on Wednesday. Michelle LaBrie will also be reaching out Julie Johnson from CETL and will discuss how to make IOI training to all faculty and to ensure there is no redundancy.
 - b) Marilyn sent out a message to the committee members to update their zoom software to ensure the participant's window displays the yes and no features in a persistent format. For those who have not installed the software update the use of the raise hand feature is acceptable. Abstentions can be verbally given.
3. Approval of the Agenda:
 - a) Motion to approve the agenda by Lisa Hooper, seconded by Miriam Golbert. Votes collected via the zoom participant's window. Unanimous. Approved.

B. Reports:

1. Chair Update (None)

C. Action:

1. Adoption of February 25, 2021 Ex. Comm. Summary (pg. 2-5)
 - Motion to adopt the Ex. Comm. Summary by Gary Collis, seconded by Claudia Acosta. Votes collected using the zoom participant's window. Non-vote from Teresa Ciardi. Chris Blakey abstained. Approved.
2. Resolution: Anti-Racism (pg. 6)
 - a) Per the By-laws the Senate Executive Committee needs to review and adopt resolutions. When the Const. & By-Laws Committee is done reviewing the Const. & By-laws resolutions will not need to go through the Senate Exe for approval. This item is returning as an action item at the March 18th agenda.
 - b) This is part of the DEI State Chancellors Mission and framework. There was not much discussion at the March 4th Academic Senate meeting. There are some who may have wanted to make some comments however, there are concerns from some who feel that if they disagree with any part of the resolution that they may be perceived as being racists. Those who were in support also did not provide much feedback or comments. There is no judgement involved with any comments or lack of a comment. It was clear that the college and the faculty may not be ready and equipped to have these types of conversations. It can be difficult to discuss roles and impact in the Santa Clarita Valley. It will take a lot of work to create an environment where people feel comfortable speaking on this topic.
 - c) David has been involved in many meetings with Black and Hispanic colleagues in discussing race. There is a need to create a comfortable environment to allow people to make comments on race issues at the college and at the Senate. There are also some concerns with these issues becoming politicizing. Flavio Median-Martina has also done much work with running Black Lives Matter workshops. There are others who feel offended that using the BLM stands for Blue Lives Matters and that it can only stand for one cause. There are many who are uncomfortable with either stating they are for it or against it. How can others be made to feel comfortable? There are ideas to have a Senate retreat or workshop with Flavio and EMP. The other idea is to do a road show. There was an idea to have Senate have a DEI sub-group which can coordinate with EMP about Senate information. This group could be comfortable with talking about these issues.
 - d) How will the Senate engage those who are not like minded and get them to share their points of view in a comfortable environment? The idea is about listening and allowing people to express themselves. EMP and Call to Action Workgroups have also had this conversation? It is a blend of fixing "ourselves" and bringing others to have raw conversations. There is an idea that white people cannot experience racism as there "white supremacy" is present in corporate, government and public sector America. White people can suffer reverse racism. There is a belief that racism is an institutional form of racism. There is a need to help people understand fragility and how to be ok with the discomfort.
 - e) The discussion can be framed as to not necessarily what is being done wrong but what can be done right. The job for many people is to use their white privilege to use it for the greater good to help those who are being oppressed. There are

- others who feel that white privilege means others may not struggle at all.
- f) Motion to adopt this resolution by Rebecca Shepherd, seconded by Gary Quire. Votes collected using the participant's window. Non-Vote from Teresa Ciardi. Approved.
3. Resolution: Truth in Academia (pg. 7)
- a) This resolution has been formed out of the fact that Higher Education and Western Civilization, that is premised on logic, reason, empirical evidence and all things that are the foundation of this country's and COC existence, are at play with a parallel universe. This is in reference not just with conspiracy theories but also with people challenging disciplinary, scientific, educational and measurable knowledge. There are many who are challenging verifiable truth. This resolution is a reaffirmation that is not meant to be political. There is a need to believe as educators in higher education in truth and intellectual honesty. There are many areas in higher education and within disciplines which can be proven. The question is how intellectually honest are some faculty being with regards to their opinions and discussions. There was a comment of support made at the March 4th Academic Senate meeting regarding opinions and intellectual honesty. Language regarding student opinions and intellectual honesty were added to the 4th whereas. There are some faculty who felt there was nothing more needed to be added to this resolution and are in full support.
 - b) This resolution is a reaffirmation of what faculty are already doing. Some students have heard from faculty who have stated claims that global warming is not real and that there is not institutional racism. This is why there is a need for this resolution. The hard sciences cannot thrive if the social structures enable truth to be dismantled. No society will be able to function if there are social systems that degrade the way of life. Faculty as educators need to help students discern what is true and factual versus what is just opinion or anecdotal. There is a lot of misinformation perpetrated on purpose and this needs to be countered. There is now a post Truth era in which society has convinced itself of what is true. Part of the way to facilitate critical thinking is make everyone comfortable with expressing their thoughts and having a discussion. There was a suggestion to add in language sitting that need to facilitate discourse in a respectful and comfortable manner. There was also a suggestion to state the commitment to professional development.
 - c) The Senate will adopt a version of a resolution with some edits and it may be different than what is discussed in Senate Executive Committee.
 - d) Motion to adopt this resolution by Chris Blakey, seconded by Lisa Hooper. Votes counted using the participant's window. Unanimous.

D. Discussion

1. Committee Surveys (Andrus & Meuschke)
 - a) All committee chairs should be distributing their surveys to their committee members for accreditation purposes. The results will be kept within the committee. It is recommended to reach out to Daylene Meuschke to create a

survey monkey link. The Const. & By-Laws and the Academic Freedom will not be surveyed as they are fairly new committees and will instead survey themselves next year.

2. Consideration of ASCCC Spring 2021 Plenary Resolution Ideas (03/11/21 Deadline)
 - a) ECE Proposed Resolution (pg. 8-9)
 - b) Faculty have an opportunity to create resolutions. These could be advanced to the state plenary for any areas they feel are missing or haven't been fulfilled at the state level regarding their disciplines or committee work as they relate to larger statewide issues.
 - c) ECE has a proposed resolution and Jennifer Paris is working with a statewide group. This is an example of a resolution that will be taken to the Area C meeting. This represents a regional group of ECE instructors who are concerned with resources.
 - d) If there is a resolution with the logo or college name does this need to be endorsed by Senate first before it goes to the state? There are many people who represent COC throughout the state in various ASCCC liaison positions. These people may need to report back to COC on their work. It is important to have those faculty who are representing COC and have the Senate recognize those discipline areas. Senate does not need to authorize every resolution but does need to be in the loop. If there are concerns then there is an opportunity to have a discussion before anything moves to the state. There are concerns with those who may not be representing the college well and thus making inflammatory statements. David also clarified that for some resolutions it may be best to have the author of that resolution speak and explain the resolution in ASCCC Area C as they are who are most knowledgeable with the content.
 - e) There are 12-14 COC faculty who serve as ASCCC liaisons. David will call a meeting with all liaisons.
3. Committee Needs? Future Business?

E. Unfinished Business

1. Local Recognition Awards and Processes.

F. Announcements

1. [ASCCC Area C Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting \(March 27, 2021 9:00am to 3:30pm\)](#)
 - This event is virtual. There are still funds available. This is a 3 day conference. It is recommended to have coverage from as many faculty as possible. Anyone who is interested in attend please let David and Marilyn know.
2. [ASCCC Spring 2021 Plenary Session, April 15- April 17, 2021, Virtual Event](#)
3. [2021 Career Noncredit Education Institute, April 30-May 2, 2021, Virtual Event](#)
4. [ASCCC 2021 Curriculum Institute, July 7- July 9, 2021, Virtual Event](#)
5. Future Meeting Dates - 04/22; 05/13 both at 11am to Noon.

G. Adjournment: 12:05 pm